Welcome to the start of the 2016 school year. The children have settled quickly into their new, freshly painted and carpeted classrooms and are ready for the exciting year of learning ahead.

### Year 2 Theme for 2016

**Let Your Light Shine**

#### Religion

How can we show our love for God and others?

The students will:

- Explore *The Greatest Commandment* found in Matthew’s Gospel.
- Learn about the Bible story of Abraham and Sarah

Lent and Easter will also be an integral part of student learning and begins with **Ash Wednesday on 10th February**.

#### English

- **Writing:**
  
  Our writing focus will be on Information Texts; recounts and descriptions. Basic sentence formulation using correct punctuation will also be a major focus. Weekly spelling lists will be explicitly taught in class and children are asked to revise these words as part of their homework. The online Soundwaves Resource will reinforce sounds studied in class.

- **Reading** activities will include guided reading, comprehension activities, shared big books and quiet reading. Reading helpers at school are always welcome. Please see your child’s teacher if you are able to assist. Children are encouraged to read **nightly**.

- **Library:** Borrowing from our library is an integral part of our week. Library bags are compulsory for borrowing. Borrowing days are as follows: 2 Red – Monday, 2 Green – Tuesday, 2 Yellow and 2 Blue – Thursday.
• **Speaking:** The oral presentation this term will give each student an opportunity to introduce themselves to the class, giving details about their family, interests, likes and dislikes. The preparation for this talk will be done in class time. Parents could assist their child by being an audience at home. A roster will be sent home shortly.

**Mathematics:**
The students will be reviewing and extending their understanding of:
- Number and Place Value to 100.
- Basic addition and subtraction strategies such as ‘rainbow’ facts, ‘counting on’, ‘counting back’ and ‘doubles’.
- Analogue time, ordinal numbers, parallel lines, fractions (half and quarter), graphing, positional language, 2D and 3D shapes and informal measurement.
- Mental maths activities will be an important part of every maths lesson.

**Science:**
In Science, we will investigate and explain how living things grow and change (life cycles). The children will be developing skills such as questioning, predicting, planning and communicating information. Tadpoles and silkworms welcome!

**Technology:**
In Technology the students will survey their peers to collect real world data. Using this data they will investigate ways this information can be displayed. Through an application called “Numbers” they will generate tables and graphs, to present their findings using our brand new iPads.

**Human and Social Sciences:**
“What does my place tell me about the past and present?”
The students will investigate significant aspects of the past in our local community. Throughout the term, they will visit the Wynnum Wading Pool, Darling Point War Memorial, and old Ambulance and Fire stations to enhance their historical knowledge. A permission note will be sent home in due course, that will cover all of our local excursions.
Swimming:
Swimming lessons will commence on Friday, 12\textsuperscript{th} February. Please pack NAMED togs including a sun-safe rash shirt, a towel, swimming cap, goggles and thongs/sandals in a waterproof bag. Please send sunscreen if you wish.

Health: Being Safe When Out and About
The students will explore their own sense of self and the factors that contribute to and influence their identities. They will learn to identify emotions in order to build positive relationships. Skills and strategies to keep safe in different environments ie; in the sun, at the swimming pool, in the playground and on excursions will also be a focus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport Uniform to be worn on the following days:</th>
<th>Physical Education:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Yellow, Red and Green: Tuesday and Friday</td>
<td>In PE this term, as well as swimming, students will select and implement different movement skills to be successful in minor games. We will also reflect on our performances in these activities and explain how rules contribute to fair and safe play. As part of each lesson we will take part in simple fitness circuits in preparation for the school cross country and as a result compare the body’s reaction to varying exercise intensity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Blue: Thursday and Friday</td>
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Drama:
The students will be introduced to the core Elements of Drama, these are the building blocks upon which all Drama is created. Focusing on the elements of role and relations, students will explore how to use their bodies, voice and facial expression to create character. There will be an overarching focus on teaching and fostering the skills of collaboration, trust, self-expression, and respect which are essential to learning in the drama room.

Music:
This term, Year 2 students will begin the year with a ‘Playing the Beat’ unit to further develop beat and rhythmical awareness. Drumming will challenge students’ dexterity and develop their technique with simple rhythmic patterns. Note recognition, singing and aural skills will also form part of the program.

Important Dates and Reminders:
2 Green Assembly - Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March
2 Yellow Assembly - Wednesday 16\textsuperscript{th} March
Palm Sunday- Sunday 20\textsuperscript{th} March
Last Day of Term- Holy Thursday 24\textsuperscript{th} March
First Day of Term 1- Monday 11\textsuperscript{th} April
Please check the school newsletter regularly for upcoming dates.